

WRESTLING FORUM

December 15, 1988

VOLUME III

issue 23

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

Tell you what...let's get the business end of this out of the way first thing, then we'll spend the rest of the page just sort of shooting the bull. Okay? Great.

What you are holding in your hands is the latest edition of Wrestling Forum, the wrestling bulletin that is published twice a month, once on the 15th and again on the 30th. We mail the following day. Rates are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for up to six months worth at any one time (that would be twelve issues at \$18.00). All correspondence should be mailed to Box 65, Knoxville, IL 61448 unless otherwise specified.

With that out of the way I'd like to welcome you all to our Christmas 1988 issue. Although this is only the third Christmas we've been around, we've established a mini tradition of publishing pictures of the staff in the December 15 edition each year. You can find that in the centerfold and it's guaranteed to rid you home of roaches or mothers-in-law provided the picture are posted in the correct spot.

Christmas is always a fun time around here. On the stereo, there's soft Christmas music playing (Bruce Springsteen doing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town") to get me in the mood. I have a sweet daughter (every commercial on TV: "I WANT THHHHHAAAAAT!"), a loving wife ("Turn off that *#(TV and get up here to bed!"), a baby on the way ("Just wait till I make my debut, old man...you ain't never gonna get no sleep!"), and of course our devoted readers ("My Forum's late again! You better shape up or I'm gonna cancel!"). Without a doubt, this is one of my favorite times of year.

Seriously, thank you all for all the cards you are bombarding us with. Mary and I do very little socializing and have very few of what you could call close friends. Before the Forum came along, we would get maybe half a dozen Christmas cards from friends and family. With the Forum, I'd bet the number is just under a hundred. Also, thank those of you for the gifts you've sent. I wish we could repay them somehow, but financially that would be crazy. The best I can do in return is to put forth the best effort I can with the bulletin and hope you enjoy.

Also something else that can be found in the Christmas issue is this next paragraph. This is the last issue you'll get during 1988. That means that Christmas parties and New Year's Eve partys will be history by the time you get your next issue. That's why I always take the space to beg you DON'T DRIVE DRUNK! Go out and have fun during the holiday season, but when you get behind the wheel of a car, or you allow someone to get behind the wheel while intoxicated, not only do you put your own life in danger, you also put the lives of innocent strangers in danger as well. Driving drunk isn't macho. It's ignorant. So if you imbibe this holiday season, let someone else do the driving. And also remember that friends don't let friends drive drunk. We need each and every one of you back for our next issue..

Let's going on in the world of wrestling this time around so let's not take a whole lot of time before getting to it. Just a quick reminder that if you haven't cast your votes in our year end poll, you don't have a lot of time to do so. Voting ends December 31 and it doesn't look like we're going to break last year's record of 94 ballots cast. At this point we have approximately fifty or so in.

On we go. But before the news, let's check out the Wrestling Forum Tournament and see who pulled out the wins...

THIRD ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT

The votes are in for the final round of tournament action and this is how the results came out:

7TH PLACE

Stan Hansen edged Road Warrior Hawk 13-12 (2 draws)

5TH PLACE

Owen Hart flew by Bobby Eaton 19-8

3RD PLACE

Barry Windham beat Randy Savage 17-10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Ric Flair outclassed Ted DiBiase 15-10 (2 draws)

TOURNEYFACTS: Final standings - 1. Flair; 2. DiBiase; 3. Windham; 4. Savage; 5. Owen Hart; 6. Bobby Eaton; 7. Stan Hansen; 8 Road Warrior Hawk.....Flair avenges last year's semi final loss to DiBiase by winning this year's championship and his second Wrestling Forum tournament... Flair's record lifetime for winning votes is 377-88 for a .811 winning percentage...this snaps DiBiase's winning streak at 13....DiBiase amasses 131 winning votes this year which is third best all time.

TAG TEAM DIVISION

7TH PLACE

Rockers 19 Ron Garvin/Barry Windham 8

5TH PLACE

Choshu/Saito 16 Powers of Pain 10

3RD PLACE

Blanchard/Anderson 14 Rougeaus 13

CHAMPIONSHIP

Cornette's Midnight Express 17 ROAD Warriors 9

THE WRESTLING FORUM MASTERS

We'll explain the whole idea next issue, but we need to get this new tournament underway as quickly as possible as it will only last four months. Please cast your votes in the following match ups:

BLUE DIVISION

Barry Windham v Road Warrior Animal
Tully Blanchard v Terry Gordy
Riki Choshu v Barry Windham
Road Warrior Animal v Tully Blanchard
Riki Choshu v Terry Gordy

green division

Randy Savage v Eddie Gilbert
Randy Savage v Sting
Eddie Gilbert v Tatsumi Fujinami
Tatsumi Fujinami v Terry Taylor
Sting v Terry Taylor

ORANGE DIVISION

Owen Hart v Road Warrior Hawk
Owen Hart v Pat Tanaka
Road Warrior Hawk v Arn Anderson
Arn Anderson v Akira Maeda
Pat Tanaka v Akira Maeda

RED DIVISION

Bobby Eaton v Stan Hansen
Bobby Eaton v Jerry Lawler
Stan Hansen v Hulk Hogan
Jerry Lawler v Bret Hart
Bret Hart v Hulk Hogan

Like we said, complete details will be available next issue. We realize every wrestler listed above wrestles twice. That's not a mistake. Just cast your votes like you would in any tournament. This time only, send them to :

SEAN GRANDE

10 Waterside Plaza #26A
New York, NY 10010

Deadline for votes on this new tournament is January 11. Results will be in the January 15th edition of the Forum.

AWA/WORLD CLASS/MEMPHIS

Before getting on to the results from Superclash III, there's some behind the scenes news that needs to attend to first. It concerns Kerry Von Erich and his one foot. As reported last issue, Kerry has had his bad foot amputated despite claims to the contrary. Word has it that Bill Apter and his wrestling magazines are set to prove that the sheets (namely Dave Meltzer and I) are lying to our readers. This should prove us right.

Titan Sports went to the Illinois State Athletic Commission about two weeks ago in an attempt to stop Kerry from wrestling. Our state has a law on the books (however antiquated it is) that unless a wrestler or a boxer has all of his limbs, he will not be allowed to wrestle or box in this state. The Commission realized how this could destroy the PPV event on the 13th, yet they had to keep Titan people satisfied because at \$1.00 per ticket, Titan is responsible for over \$10,000 per month going into the ISAC bank accounts, so they also didn't want them mad either. The ISAC compromised and promised Titan a hearing on the matter on December 14th. Titan countered by having their attorneys prepare something that was about to be signed by a judge to completely halt the entire card until the hearing. The ISAC then agreed to hear the case without the courtroom antics.

On December 9, a hearing was held and the ISAC ruled that since Kerry was going to be "exhibiting wrestling holds" and not actually competing in a wrestling contest, he would be allowed to wrestle. A one legged boxer named Craig "Gator" Bojonowski who has boxed here in Illinois was cited as a precedent in the case. Titan was upset, but the ruling stood.

Leading up to the show, there were some problems encountered as well. First, Ron Garvin was under contract to both the AWA for this show and to the WWF for regular work. He flatly stated that he wouldn't do anything even closely resembling a job on national PPV. Secondly, Kerry Von Erich had some health problems the week before in Japan and his appearance was in question up until the day of the show itself.

Knowing all that, let's get on to the show itself. Ed Garea supplies the first grade on each match and Steve Sims the second (the reason for two grades is because Ed watched on PPV and Steve attended live).

In the opener, The Guerrero Brothers beat the RPM's and Cactus Jack Foley when Chavo pinned Tommy Lane. The two teams had never worked together and so a lot of the high spots that the Guererro's are famous for didn't come off. Instead they relied on a lot of comedy. Still, Ed though it was the best match on the card and gave it a B while Steve rated it a C.

Second up was Eric Embry regaining the light heavyweight championship from Jeff Jarrett in a very short match. Jeff got "injured" somehow in a fall out of the ring and Embry took advantage of it for the pin. Afterwards, Embry did a straight babyface interview saying how he hoped Jeff was okay. It only went about 2½ minutes and some folks insisted that Mr. Embry was suffering some sort of ailment before hand which may have contributed to the shortness. Ed: D Steve: C.

Next up was a match without rhyme or reason and had Jimmy Valiant squashing Sharkey trainee Wayne Bloom (or something like that). Twenty some seconds earned it a D from Ed (for being mercifully short) and a D from Mr. Sims.

Iceman Parsons beat Brickhouse Brown with a foreign object. There were lots of missed moves in this one and Ed gave it a failing grade of an F while Steve was more generous with a D.

What would an AWA card be without confusion and controversy? The next match featured the AWA tag champs Tanaka & Diamond with Wendussa Micelli against the Top Guns, Ricky Rice & Derrik Dukes with Wendu Richter. The fans were told that which ever team won would get all the belts.

they were very specific about that fact. The end saw Wendi pinning Medussa and all the belts being awarded to the babyface team. Later on the card though, they announced that they had made a mistake and that it was to have been only the person getting pinned that would lose their title. In other words, tell us the heels are going to lose and that at least one title was going to change. Anyway, Badd Company was given their belts back. This is the second time in two weeks that that has happened. The grades were diverse here with Ed giving out another F and Steve giving a B-. Reportedly Derrick was not very good in this one. Still, Steve insists that everyone knew what their job was going in and all did what they had to do.

Take a break a minute and I'll explain the title mess up. At the end of November, Badd Company lost their titles to Greg Gagne and Robert Gibson in Minneapolis. All we know is that it was Greg's decision to have them drop the straps that night and he didn't tell dear old Dad until after the deed was done. Verne flipped out and made up some story about the wrong guy getting pinned and returned the belts. I guess that Badd Company had given notice and Greg got ticked off.

Back to Superclash. Greg Gagne then beat Ron Garvin by count out and shades of Scott Hall & Curt Hennig from Hammond IN....Greg won the TV title back on a count out. The two did exchange some nice slaps but only enough to get a D from Ed and a C from Steve.

In the POWW battle Royal, it was advertised that there were two ways to be eliminated. One was to go over the top rope and the other was to have your street clothes torn off and be left just in your underwear. I'm sure this sold a few extra tickets, but not one girl had their clothes torn off (thereby saving someone from the ominous DIPSTICK next issue) and everyone was eliminated by going over the top. The Terrorist won it for those of you keeping score and the Phantom graded it a straight F while Steve did not grade it at all.

A very fat and out of shape Sgt. Slaughter beat Colonel DeBeers by DQ when Sheik Adnon Al Kaissey and the Iron Sheik did walk-ins. I'm told it looked like someone had put a VCR in slo motion when they came in. Although the interference got the live crowd up it couldn't cover up a terrible match which both of our fearless correspondent graded an F. The Samoan Swat team beat Michael Hayes and Steve Cox when Fatu pinned Hayes. It was the same match they ran in Dallas and on TV a couple of times with the moves being move for move. Ed gave it a C- while Steve went with a straight C.

Wahoo McDaniel then beat manny Fernandez in an Indian strap match by touching all four corners. It was a bloodbath, naturally with a D- from Ed and a C- from Steve. Before the match they introduced tatsumi Fujinami and Fernandez issued a challenge. Wahoo told him that he (Wahoo) was his opponent and went to work on Manny. After the match, Fernandez recovered enough to beat on Wahoo and Fujinami (called Mr. Fujinami by the AWA as they keep in their tradition of Japanese wrestlers having no first name) made the save.

In the main event, Jerry Lawler beat Kerry Von Erich to unify the titles almost. Kerry entered the ring and kept looking under his arm for some reason. It became obvious after Jerry posted Kerry's arm. He bladed his arm. Lawler played the heel including the invisible foreign object (which one called called public hair) being used. Kerry bladed and Steve says he's never seen anyone bleed as much. They stopped the match while Kerry had Lawler beat with the claw - Kerry had the claw on him and his shoulders were down for 15 seconds each time while the referee checked Kerry's cut - and awarded both belts to Lawler. There was a near riot when they did this because a lot of people felt cheated by the main event UNIFICATION match ending without a clean win. Ed gave it a D-, mainly for the screw job ending and Steve graded it a B, taking the ending into consideration. Steve had a good line describing

the effect of the match saying the operation was a success but the patient died. The match didn't go as they had originally planned, I understand as Kerry was to have won the titles. Supposedly, with the Memphis buyout of World Class, Kerry was to have received the major push. But due to his little indiscretions in Japan, this match may have been to teach him a lesson. There is a rematch scheduled this coming Friday night (12/16) in Dallas and there is a distinct possibility that Kerry will win the belts there. We shall see.

The final match of the night pitted the Rock and Roll Express against Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden. Figuring that the "main event" had a screw job ending, logical promoting says that this would be a hot match with a clear cut winner. Unfortunately, we're dealing with a little bald senile guy up in Minnesota as a promoter. The match went to a double disqualification right after the Express hit Fuller with a double drop kick. All four were in the ring and the ref called for the bell about fifteen seconds later. Ed and Steve agreed on the final grade, an F.

All in all, the show has to be considered a success. One thing that surprised us all was the limited number of no shows. The AWA in the past has been famous for advertising talent that had no intention of being there. Tonight, John Paul of the Top Guns was the only one not there. That combined with the fact that they announced the line up more than two months ago is impressive.

I have no figures on PPV as of yet (of course) since it's only the next day, but I do have this information: Jeff Siegel asked his cable company in Evanston (Chicago Cable) how many orders they had. He ordered it the day of the show and the lady told him they had five or so. I called Peoria Cable TV which carried it and they told me that they didn't even sign up enough people to pay for a two day display ad in the paper. My own cable company told me that they had the event blacked out in Illinois (I guess they moved Peoria and Chicago out of the state for a day) so it did no good to talk with a bunch of idiots there.

In other news from these three promotions, Kevin Von Erich will be calling it a career soon if not already. His recent absences have been blamed on reoccurring concussions and we had a little trouble believing that. I guess they did a CAT scan and it showed irreversible brain damage, much the same kind that boxers get (e.g. Muhammed Ali). He has been told that any more wrestling might kill him and because of that he has pretty well decided to hang up the boots. As for an explanation to the fans, they may use Brian Adias' oriental spike saying that he never did recover from that. For those who know the story...well, let's just say the "oriental spike" may have been the cause all right.

BAD JOKE OF THE MONTH DEPT. I wasn't going to run this until all the denials and them calling us liars, but fair is fair. I hear that Kerry will never again lose a match. Yep. He'll never again know the agony of "De Feet". Sorry.

Downtown Bruno has some time off and will probably be job hunting soon and not in Texas. He was piledriven on the arena floor by Bill Dundee five times in Memphis (and around the circuit for that matter) and stretched out. Other promotions have told me he's been contacting them about work.

The program for the Superclash is one of the best we've ever seen for a wrestling event. They really did a good job on it and to our surprise (pleasant I might add) the editor of it is good friend and UAWF board member Ray Wheebe Jr. Great job, Ray!

Here are the numbers the ISAC is reporting to anyone who calls as the official numbers: 1677 paid, 2791 comps and a gate of \$25,018. That is, to say the least, disappointing.

#1 PENCIL POINTS #17

WITSCHI'S

I got goosebumps when I read Ken Steiner's article on Jack Witschi's Sports Arena. I grew up in Seekonk, Mass. which was a hop, skip and a jump from North ATTLEBOROUGH. I didn't have my driver's license at the time but I used to go sporadically whether it be with my uncle or brother (whom I had to beg to take me). I finally got my license and was all excited that I could now attend every Friday night card. But fate took my excitement away from me as three days after I passed my driving test, the arena burned down.

Everything Ken said about the place was right on the money. The Dallas Sportatorium closely resembles what Witschi's was like. Some of my memories included a George Steele-Chief Strongbow strap match in which the Chief pinned the Animal in 39 seconds. But after the match, Steele attacked Strongbow and the chief bled like Tommy Rich. I also remember my uncle asking Sonny King to autograph the back of a Pedro Morales picture. Babyface Sonny spit on it and walked away. My fondest memory was posing for a picture with the very friendly Andre the Giant after a match he had with Crazy Luke Graham. Makes me yearn for the old days. Thanks Ken, for reminding me of one historic place.

-RON LEMIEUX-

-Vernon, CT-

"Memories of Witschi's"...I knew sooner or later someone would be compelled to write that story, I'm just surprised it wasn't me. Looking at what McMahon passes off as wrestling today, people here in New England that are real wrestling fans all must long for the days when Jack Witschi's Sports Arena presented those weekly cards every Friday night. That was the way to start your weekend here in New England. Where do you want to begin?

North Attleboro is a 20 minute ride from here in Providence. It's right over the Rhode Island-Massachusetts state line. It was an old barn of a building run by the Witschi family. Free parking in a gravel filled, pot holed lot. They had a ticket booth where you purchased your tickets and they stamped your hand with a rubber stamp so you could reenter at intermission without showing your ticket. The smell of the arena, stale beer, cigars...the same old lady at ringside every week.... the same regulars week after week who you knew by sight. I'd say 80% of the fans were regulars who attended every week and they really believed it was real (Now you know why the rubber stamp treatment - believe me, there were no Harvard grads in the crowd but they were decent hardworking people - the same people I'm sure can't afford McMahon's PPV and other deals)! The same people McMahon could care less about was the hardcore wrestling fans like the ones at Witschi's.

My own personal memories...I was there the night he wrote about Ivan Putski-Bruiser Brody chair swinging main event - Sept 76. It was the first road trip I was allowed to drive to other than school or work after turning 16.

I also have memories of a giant rookie named Chuck O'Connor battling El Olimpico, Tony Garea and Arnold Skaaland there (O'Connor is now Big John Studd). Chief Jay Strongbow was an absolute god at Witschi's and I don't think he ever lost a match there for fear of riots. He was definitely more popular than champ Pedro Morales in this area at that time. I saw so many matches during the summer of 72 with Sonny King and Strongbow vs Toru Tanaka-Mr Fuji and they pulled a different finish every time. Heels DQ'd one week, ref bump next time, Sonny being pinned (never Strongbow)...always 2 of 3 falls in those days, Tanaka and Fuji somehow always holding onto the belts and the fans on the edge of their seats thinking this would finally be the week for new champs.

-ANTHONY PARILLO-

-Providence, RI-

EDITOR: I have more from Anthony which I'll run next time along with a couple more letters concerning Witschi's. Who'd have ever thought that so many "inside fans" would have had so much in common. In addition to the letters, I've received about three or four other phone calls too. Amazing. Too bad places like that don't exist any more. How 'bout some of you out there in California reminiscing with us about the Olympic? What was that phone number? RI-.....

TITAN IMAGE BUILDERS

Even if it hadn't been for the WTBS wrestling of the NWA card on December 7 and the pay-per-view show from the Pavilion on the 13th, I would not have attended the WWF card at the Rockford (IL) Metro Center on Dec. 8. The last NBC Main Event seemed to condone the use of snakes, chains, 2 x 4's, sticking your tongue out while singing the national anthem, and handcuffing a weakling wearing glasses and then hitting him. And to think there was a time when I thought McMahon Jr.'s WWF would be good for professional wrestling and its fans.

-RON DOBRATZ-

-Roscoe, IL-

superclash

I thought I'd write in and express some views on the recent Superclash III show in Chicago. I attended the card with another inside fan and to put it mildly, as excited as we were about the card itself, the one match we were all looking forward to was the main event. Surely we would get a clean finish to unify the world titles. Wrong! I could not believe my eyes when I saw Marty Miller stop the match for blood. Thinking back on it I give the match a grade of both A and F. I realize what they wanted to do was to give both belts to Lawler without Kerry having to do a clean job on National TV. For the finish they used and the execution of the match to achieve this result, I give them an A. However, as well as I was done, nobody bought it. The people in the arena were frustrated, deflated and generally felt cheated by the outcome. I honestly feel that people would have more easily accepted Von Erich being pinned than the finish they used. I'm afraid that they may have turned off the few fans who care; it may take them quite some time to recover from this self inflicted wound.

-STEVE SIMS-

-Lilse, IL-

PS. Can you pass along my home phone number to Medussa Mecelli?

TOO MUCH PAY PER VIEW

I agree with the recent article which said PPV events should be limited. In the space of just seven weeks we've got four PPV events. That means as a fan, I'm going to lay out about eighty bucks to watch wrestling over the next seven weeks. Combine that with what it costs for cable TV and it's costing me almost \$15 a week to enjoy the sport. The future of wrestling may be in PPV and not live only because people like me won't be able to afford to go live.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

EMILY

I think I should have responded to your Christmas lists for wrestlers. I'm getting some of my favorite guys electric razors because they seem to be having so much trouble with the blade. Maybe people like Jim Cornette won't cut themselves so deep with a nice Norelco. I'll write again soon.

-EMILY LATRELLA-

-New York City-

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Things here remain pretty much in a state of turmoil with everyone for the most part, giving up any hope of Starrcade being any kind of a success. No one yet knows who is in charge (which is a damn stupid way to run a business of any kind) and the Turner people just won't take charge. We'll get to all of that in a minute but first let's take a look at Clash of Champions IV that aired live December 7 on TBS.

Let me start off by saying that for those of you who accuse me of favoring the NWA, you may as well skip over this report as your blood pressure may start rising. I thought the show was overall pretty good, and gave the whole thing a grade of a C. There were two matches that I could have done without, but they were important for getting the respect angles over so they can be excused. Here are the results:

THE FANTASTICS beat EDDIE GILBERT & RON SIMMONS for the US tag titles. There were hints throughout the match that Gilbert would turn heel with tempers flaring quite a bit. There were several incidents where Gilbert and Fulton pushed and shoved each other and went nose to nose. One thing that was particularly annoying was the TBS' camera crew's fetish about crowd shots. More on this later, back to the match. If there was a weak spot going in, it was Ron Simmons, but he did fine and is really quite improved. The one move that brought me out of my chair was when Fulton tried a cross body block from the ropes and Simmons woke up from a stupor at the last second, caught him and turned it into a power slam in one very smooth move. The last ten minutes of the match told a story, so to speak. Eddie missed a shoulder block in the corner and caught his shoulder. Right after, he was on the outside of the ring and got hit, falling injured arm first on to the security rail. The Fantastics then worked over the arm for the next eight or nine minutes with Gilbert doing a good job at selling the pain. With about two minutes remaining in the 30 minute time limit, Gilbert hit Fulton with a hot shot out of nowhere. He didn't go for a tag though and that ultimately cost them the match (for a possible future angle). Gilbert and Fulton exchanged a triple reverse Irish whip with Fulton ending up whipped into the turnbuckle. Gilbert went for a third shoulder block and again missed, hitting his shoulder for a third time. Fulton then cradled him for the pin as Gilbert was in too much pain to try and kick out. The match was good and everyone did their part well. Whole thing gets a B. The problem with the crowd shots, I think, was to try and let home viewers, especially those tuning in by accident, see how up the crowd was. The problem was that when they did a crowd shot, whoever was getting in the picture knew it and they reacted with the "HI-MOM" mentality. The best way to do a crowd shot is when the people are reacting to the matches, not the camera.

Next up was Steve Williams squashing the Italian Stallion. The match went about 15 minutes and a lot of people I've talked to complained about this match which shows you different tastes. I liked the match as it was the type of squash I grew up with watching in the AWA. You had no doubt who was going to win or with what move, but you still got to see some decent wrestling. Both worked hard and Steve finally won it with a Stampedo. It's hard to grade a squash, but it was good enough for a C+ in my book.

You have to realize, that I watched this tape after I got home and had taken a few calls. That put this next portion of the show on at about 2:00 am. I thought I had gone to sleep and was having a nightmare as Magnum had a Straight Talk segment with special guest Junkyard Dog. Had to be a piece of pizza that hadn't fully digested, I thought. But the next morning, he was still on the tape. Nikita Koloff has quit, basically being fed up with Dusty (more later) and Magnum buried him saying that Paul Jones and the Assassins had run him out of wrestling (he went to work for Nelson Royal's independent which is pretty much the same thing). Anyway, Dog barked his interview in WWF fashion, something

that I had hoped that he had left behind. So much for wishful thinking.

The next match up was as bad as they get. Ivan Koloff vs Paul Jones and Ivan had one arm tied behind his back. A four year old could tell what was going to happen (at least one did). This was especially bad because it was Ivan's left arm tied, and that is the side of the body wrestlers are trained to work on. That means everything had to be reversed work wise (what there was of it) and also resulted in Ivan doing some real clumsy rebounds off the ropes. Ivan won but the Assassins did a run in and JYD made the save. This one gets a ZZ (equivalent to a negative two star).

Dusty vs Animal took a while to get on. They had a bunch of commercials to get out of the way and some people thought Dusty had walked out on live TV (me included). He showed up for a two minute brawl in which he was DQ'd for using a chair. Hawk interfered first but there had been a ref bump so it didn't count. Sting made the save and Dusty got caught using the chair on Animal's leg. Now Animal gets to choose his partner for the six man tag championships. I didn't like this one and it wasn't worth the wait. Grade: D.

The match that we all were drooling over left some of us satisfied and others cold. Ric Flair and Barry Windham beat the Midnight Express with the aid of JJ Dillon's ninety pound shoe. It was a good match with Flair and Eaton being in quite a bit. Usually Flair is not in top form in a tag match, but he was great tonight. He and Eaton exchanged quite a few slaps and Flair's usual spots. Windham was as good as I expected and even Stan Lane (when he's the "worst" wrestler in the ring, you know something good's going on) held up his end of the match. The end came with the Express destroying Windham with Eaton hitting a leg drop off the top rope. JJ went to the apron with his shoe, but Cornette hit him with the racquet and started choking him. JJ threw the shoe to Flair who then clobbered Bobby and put Windham on top for the pin (I forget where the ref was during all this). Midnight loses no credibility with the loss and the match is a showcase. It gets an A- from me.

Okay, other news. Cornette and Dangerously intensified their feud with Cornette inviting Paul E out for a "Louisville Slugger" interview spot. Dangerously obliged and they exchanged words which ended with Jim punching Paul then trying to stuff the blood soaked coat down his throat. The two Expresses came on and a brawl ensued with the three pound wicker chairs getting tossed around a lot (looked good but how much can wicker hurt?). It seems to a lot of readers that Paul isn't giving the interviews that he's capable of. I don't know why except that they seem to have changed his character a little since bringing him in. He's no longer the funny guy, but rather a big mouth manager who is dead serious about his work. Cornette has to fill the funny guy role and it seems that Paul is almost trying NOT to be funny. As long as the two are in the same promotion, I don't see Paul acting the part of the wimpy manager who relies on his wits to get by.

Dusty's name has disappeared from the credits at the end of the TBS show meaning he is officially out as booker. Jim Crockett is filling that role now and he's not making any brownie points with Jack Petrick. This past week, Crockett was given an ultimatum in no uncertain terms. He evidently had put together a real stinker of a TBS show for the weekend of 12/17.

Dustin Rhodes is in as we had speculated last time. He is teaming with returning Kendall Windham (who does look like he's put on some weight finally) and they are calling them the Texas Broncos (aren't they from Denver?)

Bam Bam Bigelow is supposedly gone, quit after they asked him to stare at the lights for three seconds at Starrcade. He said he really didn't want to (paraphrased from a two word reply). Where's he headed? Well with his attitude and reputation preceding him, he may have some trouble finding work. Maybe Dr. D. David Shultz needs a partner in

//

bounty hunting business. As for the scheduled match with him and Windham at Starrcade, it looks like Eddie Gilbert will be taking his place. They have already shot a match or angle with Gilbert and Windham that should air this weekend or next.

They are trying to put together another Pay Per View event for February. The original date was February 19 and the site was Chicago's UIC Pavilion, but...somebody forgot to check dates. The UIC is already booked that day for a big high school basketball tournament (no Knoxville's 7-0 team is not entered) so they may have to either re think the plan or do it in another city. February in Chicago is brutal anyway with airports getting closed a lot, so it might be wise not to plan a big national event from there that time of year. Negotiations are back on with Rick Steamboat for this show although the Steamboats are not all that interested at his point. They are holding back on turning Flair babyface based on Rick's decision and the anticipation of matching these two up.

Speaking of turns, Eddie Gilbert was not turned heel during the Clash for a couple of very good reasons. First of all, his arm/neck injury is acting up a bit so the bumps that a heel has to take are out of the question. The second reason is that the new management realizes that they have done too many turns in the past few weeks for another one to be all that effective at this time. Look for it after the first of the year.

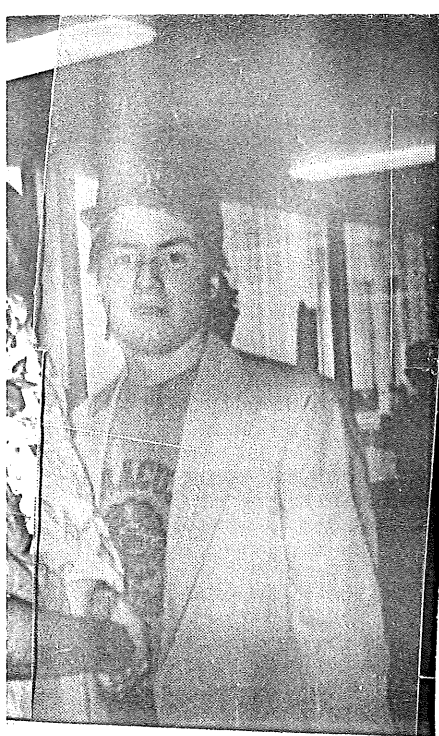
Just when you think they might be using some common sense, I hear that they may be turning the Road Warriors back babyface. It seems that Sting was a little upset that he got booed in San Francisco and that has the management thinking the Warrior turn wasn't successful. They don't realize that the type of fan that the NWA has are fans who are very independent and ones that don't like the promotion to do their thinking for them (unlike the easily manipulated WWF crowds on a whole who blindly cheer babyfaces and boo heels). Sting didn't help his position with the San Francisco fans by flipping them the bird when booed.

Rick Steiner is one hot property. Vince is hot after him and we can see why. He did a recent skit that was hilarious where the Varsity Club had to take on one of the Mulkie brothers and a masked man called Mr. Pain. Of course, the masked man was Steiner who sat in the audience for the match while Mulkie took on the Varsity club by himself. Steiner finally did a run in and an interview with David Crockett afterward where he kept whispering to David that it was really him, Rick. I don't doubt that he really had to tell David.

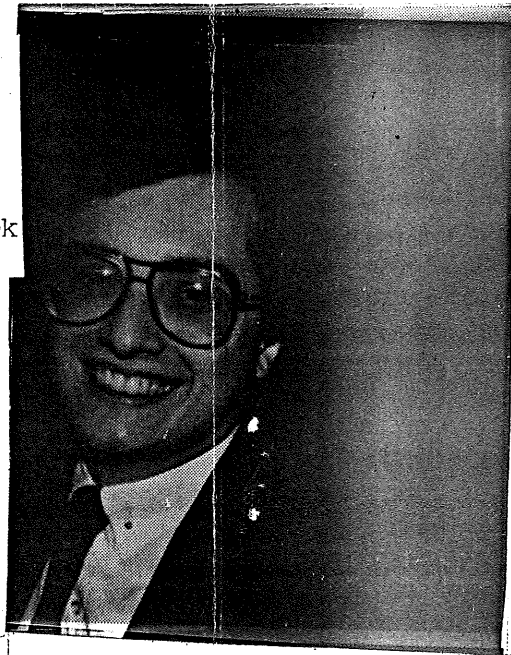
Some changes. David will be hosting the Saturday morning show leaving the evening show to Jim Ross and Tony Shivone. Apparently all talks with Gordon Solie have just been conjecture with no solid negotiations.

Dusty's power struggle isn't the only one going on. JJ Dillon obviously has one of his own. He wants everyone to know he's the number one manager in the promotion and is trying to bury Cornette, Dangerously, Ellering and Jones behind the scenes. Dusty used his influence to have the PWI people give him manager of the year to prove his value. The new management may actually believe that those awards in PWI are voted on by the fans, but as we know, they are actually decided before the ballots even come out.

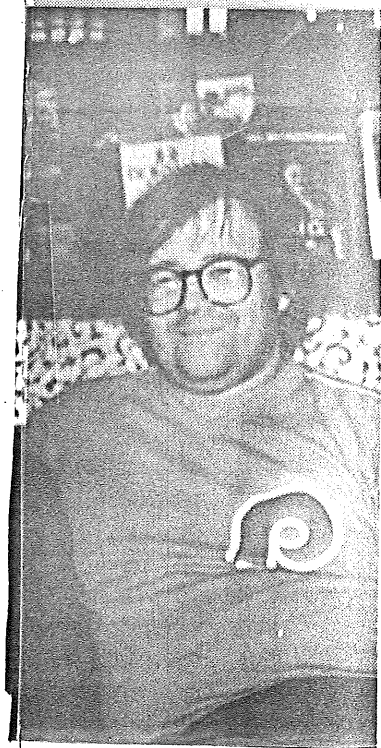
As for Nikita, his timing was off. He left just days before Dusty was booted as booker. When Turner's people came in (before the actual sale) they sat down with the wrestlers individually and asked their opinions of Crockett and Dusty. Nikita and Tully were the biggest detractors and you'll notice they are both now gone. It seems the TBS people "told on them" and Dusty took it personally. Tully and Arn were talented enough to hook on with Titan. As we said before though, Nikita looks to be headed to Nelson Royal's promotion in the Mid Atlantic area. He could wind up in the AWA since that is close to home in Minnesota. Then again, Verne probably wouldn't use him right.



left: Sean Grande prepares to depart Central Illinois this summer. He was speechless after spending nearly a week here.



right: Winner of the 1988 Gary Michael Capetta look-a-like contest - Jeff Siegel.



right: Phantom Ed Garea in a rare pose, shown here thinking up new ways to give editors ulcers.

Warmest Christmas Wishes ... from all of us at Wrestling Forum!

below: Kelly Gallagher and friend at convention 88 in Memphis



A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT
Let us keep Christmas, its meaning never ends...the time of year to wish happiness and good will to friends and loved ones, near or far...the time to share the joys of the past and the hopes of the future, and to remember all we have to be thankful for. If we can do this for a day, why not forever? Let us keep the true spirit of Christmas. Today, tomorrow and always.

below: the two greatest secretaries in the world today.



SANTA'S SHOPPING LIST FOR WRESTLERS

Last issue we asked for you to send in your suggestions for Santa in regards as to what he could bring wrestlers this year. With one letter pouring in from Gary Fishman of Kew Gardens NY, you editor has racked his brain along with Gary to come up with this list:

GARY FISHMAN

For Dusty- Carl Stiles' glass eye that rolled around the mat last year.

Tommy Rich - a commercial endorsement contract to promote Gillette razor blades.

Dustin Rhodes - a half partnership in his grandfather's plumbing business. Perhaps he'll give Dusty a job there.

David Crockett - a passing grade on his junior high school equivalency exam.

Gordon Solie - a job with at least a 6 month guarantee.

Jim Garvin - An invitation to join the WWF so he can further sharpen his rest holds.

Chris Champion - a trip back to the 21st century to find Sean Royal

Lanny Poffo - the money to buy his brother an expensive gift to express his gratitude for all Randy's done for him over the past year.

EDITOR GIFTS:

Dusty - a wheelchair so he can either find someone to push himself again or so he can push himself cos it's the only push he should ever get again.

Paul E. - an interview spot and an AT&T gift certificate.

Jim cornette - tennis lessons

Hulk Hogan - a toupee

Ultimate Warrior - oxygen tanks

Vince - a gift certificate from a zookeeper

Rick Rude - a set of morals

Downtown Bruno - a steady job

Randy savage - a shampoo for split ends

Ted Turner - new sponsors (or at least new ads)

WWF timekeepers - a stopwatch that works.

Jon Gallagher - typing lessons

Dave Meltzer - some regular blue jeans

Pat Patterson - a gift certificate from GDI's

Bill Watts - a job in wrestling

Sean Grande - plane tickets without hassles.

'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (Titan Style)

by Michelle Johnson

(with apologies to Clement C. Moore)

'Twas the night before Christmas, they drew a busy house
 The crowd's idle stirrings sounded less like a lion than a mouse
 The blue Blazer was dazzling, the marks didn't care
 They came because Ultimate Warrior was there.
 They popped for Powers with Warriors in their heads
 The only possible conclusion was they were brain dead.
 I had just about had my fill of this crap
 I'd rather sleep at home; 12 bucks was too much to pay for this nap.
 When out of the parking lot there arose such a clatter
 I thought Dusty was doing jumping jack, maybe someone even fatter
 The noise was as loud as some hyperactive kids at a Hulk Hogan match
 I hid all my jewelry and stashed all my cash
 When what to my wondering eyes did appear
 A sleigh drawn by cackling chickens full of Christmas cheer
 The crabby old driver had an arrogant wince
 I knew by his ranting that it had to be Vince.
 His birds how they flew, he had them tamed
 And he cussed and shouted as he called out their names:
 "Now Frankie, now Koko, now Rooster, now Blazer!"
 They sailed forth like juice from Abdullah's razor.
 To the top of the arena they flew and put on a brawl
 I'd give it a C-. it was mostly a stall
 Then up to the rooftop Vince himself flew
 I stood there and gawked wondering what he would do.
 The chickens were strutting and acting real tough
 But they were about as threatening as marshmallow fluff
 Then Vince snapped his fingers and without a sound
 Beefcake, Hogan and Warrior gathered 'round
 They were all dressed in cheap Santa suits
 With phoney cotton beards, they looked like real beauts.
 They all had bundles slung over their backs
 Warrior puffed so hard I thought he'd have a heart attack
 My eyes started to twinkle, they became teary
 Even Vince wanted poor children to have a Christmas merry
 All of a sudden the three undid their bows
 And hordes of WWF merchandise began to flow
 There were T-shirts and posters and Titan knapsacks
 And all of them had tiny bill attached
 Just then in the sky I saw a man with a red belly
 Vince's legs buckled, he turned into jelly
 Pat Patterson was frightened, that gay little elf
 And I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself
 Santa landed on the rooftop and gave Vince Hell
 He said, "You've taken wrestling, now you want Christmas as well!"
 I had to believe that this wasn't a work
 Because Vince started crying when Santa called him a jerk.
 From out of the blue Santa punched Vince in the nose
 He hit him so hard he made the Warrior explode
 The sky was lit bright and there was a high whistle
 All that was left of Hellwig was a charred pile of gristle
 I heard Vince exclaim as he was blown out of sight
 "Profitable Christmas to all, at least all Titanites!"

THE THIRD FALL

The role of a referee is simple. Be there to make judgement calls and enforce the rules of the game. A good referee is one who is almost invisible until the time he needs to be seen. After inserting himself into the action for however long of time, he then returns to his position out of the public eye. Referees are the type of people who are usually not recognized on the street the way wrestlers or other sports celebrities are.

Perhaps the best example of this is James. James has held a referee's license for quite a few years, yet no one would normally connect him with wearing the "zebra kit."

Growing up, James was the type who seemed like he would become the participant rather than the referee. He lettered in high school football and basketball four years running. He went to college on a football scholarship. But when he got involved in college football, he found it quite different from the high school game he had played. Going from a small high school to a major university had a lot to do with his decision to don the stripped shirt.

Among James' accomplishments in life include graduating from the Major League Umpire's Training School in 1976. He worked spring training that year including a game that featured Tom Seaver and Steve Carlton on the mound for their respective teams.

But then came wrestling.

While James was attending college, his fraternity needed a fund raiser. James was put in charge of doing the PR work for the event and the fraternity ended up making money on the card. After graduating from college, James ended up doing more and more PR work. That and doing some officiating from time to time.

There is still one more aspect to the career of James. In 1969, we won the state Speech Championship in the high school FFA (Future Farmers of America). That would influence his career more than any other part of his life no doubt.

You may never have seen James running up and down a football field calling the action with a stripped shirt on. You may never have seen him officiate a basketball game. You may never have seen him work a major or minor league baseball game. That's because James is not well known as a referee.

He's known for his speaking ability.

Perhaps the judges in 1969 at the speech competition knew something we would only find out in future years. Their champion that year was our champion last year...in the Announcer of the Year balloting here in our year end awards. James "Jim" Ross.

And now you know the outcome of the third fall.

My thanks to Dennis Brent of Pro Wrestling Digest for supplying the background information for this piece. PWD is published monthly at Box 6488, Dallas TX 75379 at a cost of \$24.95 for one year.

If you have an interesting bit of trivia we can turn into a third fall feature, let us know. You supply the info, we'll write the story. Send along whatever you can and we'll be sure and credit you with the assist.

YEAR END AWARDS L A S T C H A N C E T O V O T E

I had hoped to bring you the early leaders in all the categories this issue but the truth is, I haven't counted all that many as of yet. There's about 40 or so in already but in order to set our record you need to vote now! Here are the categories one last time. If you haven't voted, your ballot must be in by December 31. Winners announced in the January 15 issue.

1. MAN OF THE YEAR...who had the biggest impact positive or negative on the world of wrestling.
2. WRESTLER OF THE YEAR...list your personal top ten from this past year based on the entire year, not just the past few weeks.
3. ROOKIE OF THE YEAR.
4. PROMOTION OF THE YEAR
5. WORST PROMOTION.
6. TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR
7. MOST OVERRATED.
8. MOST UNDERRATED
9. MATCH OF THE YEAR (include the date & city if you can)
10. ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR
11. COLOR COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR
12. JOBBER OF THE YEAR
13. ANGLE OF THE YEAR
14. FEUD OF THE YEAR
15. DUMBEST ANGLE
16. DUMBEST FEUD OF THE YEAR
17. WORST WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
18. BEST BABYFACE
19. BEST HEEL
20. MANAGER OF THE YEAR
21. DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR
22. BEST TV SHOW
23. MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER
24. BEST FINISHING MANEUVER (be sure to include the wrestler who uses it)
25. WORST FINISHING MANEUVER (ditto).
26. BEST INTERVIEW
27. MOST DISGUSTING EVENT
28. BEST NEWSTAND MAGAZINE (if you read them)
29. BIGGEST SHOCK
30. WORST ANNOUNCER
31. BEST MAJOR SHOW.

ADDITIONAL SURVEY QUESTIONS: Age, sex, occupation, years a fan, approximate number of cards attended per year, approximate number of hours spent watching TV wrestling, number of newsletters subscribed to. Also include you top five dream matches that you would book if you had access to every wrestler in the world for one night. One match can have a six man tag event the rest have to be regular tags or singles. If you wish to make comments along with your votes, please do so. In the yearbook, I'll have the complete results of the voting along with selected comments from the votes sent in.

For those of you asking about the yearbook, we should have complete details on ordering it next issue. I plan on it being a little bigger than last year's with more information, but I'm going to try and keep the price the same. Because of that, we are not giving a discount to those who vote this year.

If you don't understand these categories, you can either call for more information or just send a SASE and I'll mail out the complete category listing from two issues ago that listed them all with descriptions.

You may vote for three wrestlers in each category above (except #2). Your first place choice will receive three points, second place two points and third place gets one point. Mail your ballots to Wrestling Forum, Box 65, Knoxville, IL 61448 ATTENTION BALLOTS.

If you make comments, but you want your name withheld, please put that in very large letters with your ballot. There is no official ballot on which to vote. Ballots have come in on everything from what looks like very expensive stationary to 3 x 5 sheets of rainbow notepad paper.

Thanks for your support. To beat the record of 94, we need YOUR votes.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

All hype is being directed towards the 1/15 Pay Per View show emanating from the Summit in Houston. This year the Royal Rumble will be on PPV rather than on USA (this year Crockett isn't running a PPV event on the same day so they aren't worried about destroying anything, just making money themselves). The USA network appears to be a little upset with their decision although Titan countered with the fact that they let USA have the Paris show on Election night.

As for the Royal Rumble itself, there is very little to the line up other than the Rumble. The under card consists of the Rougeaus and Dino Bravo vs the Hart Foundation and Jim Duggan, Harley Race vs King Haku for the crown, Rockin Robin vs Judy Martin for the ladies title and a posedown between the Ultimate Dingbat and Rick Rude (I wonder if there is any way to invest money in pharmaceutical companies before this show). As for other things going on in the way of this show, Rick Martel is "making a miraculous comeback" and Big John Studd will return on this show as well.

It's too early to tell, but if I had to pick an early favorite to win the Royal Rumble it might be Studd. They need to get him over in a big way if they are going to need to do it quick. They are brining him back as a babyface from they way they've been talking. For those of you who think the Rumble will come down to Savage and Hogan, I think it would make more sense for them to accidentally eliminate each other during the middle (maybe while tossing a heel together) than for it to come down to them alone. Like I said, it's all too early to tell.

Rugged Ron Garvin and the Sheepherders have debuted, all as babyfaces. One insider had an interesting theory that Vince was bringing in new talent and pushing them as the opposite as whatever they were in their previous promotion, thereby proving that he could get anyone he wanted over with the national audience (if that's the case, why isn't Dino Bravo over...for that matter why is he even getting a push?!?!). Not the case though. Both are filling spots in the roster. Garvin is filling the void left by Don Muracco and the Sheepherders or Bushwhackers or whatever fill the spot left by the Bulldogs. I understand they bought a big decorative boulder for the office lawn and will use it sporadically for a JYD replacement.

Savage against Hogan is going to be basically run in four steps. The first step is going to be done at the TV tapings (which I guess is going to be done this week in Florida) the second coming at the Royal Rumble. Third will be on a live NBC special (more on this later) on 2/3 and the final chapter on the January TV tapings which will actually be done before 2/3 but air afterward. They haven't yet finalized all that will happen or worked out the intricate details of the angle but we do know this: Hogan will remain the babyface for right now. They are going to work him in some matches against some "tweeners" to see just how many people actually boo him. If there are too many, they may scrap most of the idea. If it's not too bad then they will run Hogan as the babyface at Wrestlemania with Savage playing a twener.

The decision to "test market" things first is a good idea. From the people I talk to at work who have no inside knowledge, they seem to think that Hogan is turning bad. They don't know that Randy and Liz are married, but they do think that Hogan is trying to steal Randy's woman and that upsets them.

The air traffic controller's work slow down in Canada presented some unique problems for titan in the past couple of weeks. They did an afternoon show in Montreal followed by an evening shot that night in Hamilton. The show was to start at 7:30 but as of that time, none of the wrestlers were at the arena yet. They made an announcement that there was problems and they were delaying the starting time until 8:30.

At 7:45, just four of the wrestlers showed up (Hogan, Bossman, Tim Horner and Slick) so they kept waiting. They contacted a local wrestler (Johnny K-9) and he arrived just after 8:30. They began the show (realize there are something like 11,000 people waiting for this) with a special interview with Slick in the ring. Slick danced to the ring, setting an all time record for time wasting. The interview went five minutes before the show opened with K-9 vs Horner. That match went 20 minutes. The second match on the card was Hogan-Bossman which Hogan had to work overtime. Two reports from the show vary the time between twenty and twenty five minutes, but which ever...a record for Hogan. Other wrestlers began to arrive thanks to private flights, but since their luggage was on board commercial flights that had been cancelled, a lot of guys wrestled in make shift attire. As near I can figure it, there was something like eight or nine no shows. A local radio station really buried the WWF the next morning but Jack Tunney made a few calls to straighten things out and an on air apology was made.

Last issue we reported how unhappy Owen Hart was. More news this time around. They have limited him on his moves severely. They told him that he couldn't do the flip off the turn buckles anymore because that's Lanny Poffo's move. He can't get out of a hold using the kick to the back of the head because that's Bad New Brown's move. He's only allowed three spots per match now because he's showing everyone else up. I guess that's what they call debriefing. He's hurt at this point (legit) after the Survivor series. When going to leapfrog Greg Valentine, Valentine didn't duck his head and Owen caught it in the groin. His future has been pretty well sealed here as when he does come back he's being booked against Akeem in many cities.

We don't have any details about the TV tapings which turns out were this previous week in Florida. We should have details next issue.

I've talked with quite a few people who attended the Survivor Series live and a strange thing took place during the double turn of Demolition and Powers of Pain. The fans live thought that it was Mr. Fuji who had turned babyface and that's the reason for the cheers when POP won and the boos when Demolition did the run in. I think Titan may have learned a lesson here...you can't do a turn like this out of the blue because fans won't understand.

Here's the angle shot on the TV tapings at least. Hogan is wrestling Akeem with Liz as his manager. Bossman does a run in and they double on Hogan handcuffing him. Liz runs to the dressing room to get Randy but she comes back empty handed. Finally Savage appears and makes the save but a little too late. Liz goes over to Hogan to check on him and Randy pulls her away.

The other angle shot had Terry Taylor getting pinned by Tito Santana when Bobby Heenan's interference cost him the match. Taylor and Heenan started shoving and finally it came to blows. We suspected this was coming off but we didn't expect it quite so soon.

I talked with Titan people about the reasoning behind their attempted sabotage of the AWA PPV card and they just laughed about it. They told me that the AWA would have tried the same thing if they could have, yet in several PPV ventures by the WWF...no one from the AWA has tried. This sort of reminds me of when I was in the pest control industry we joked that some people tried killing roaches with bazookas. Dead is dead. Titan really didn't have to help with this one.

Finally, Vince is going to make an all out effort to sign away the entire Varsity Club from the NWA. He stands a good chance considering all the disarray there at present.

We have good news to report as DonOwen and Oregon State Boxing and Wrestling Commission have reached a compromise and Portland wrestling is back in business. On 12/3, having only missed one card in Portland, the 12/3 TV show was originally supposed to be pre empted by a college football game, but channel 12 aired that night's card following the game and I just happened to tune in the show on a last minute whim. I didn't know they were back until that point. I joined the first match (a Coal Miner's glove affair) between Top Gun and Abbudah Dein in progress.

They hyped a make up card for 12.10 which was originally supposed to be on 11/26 in which Gun and Buddy Rose were to meet in their heavily hyped hair match. The Coal Miner's match saw Gun get the glove and nail Dein for an apparent pin. Rose ran in and attacked Gun and whipped him into the ropes in an effort to hit him with the Glove but Gun kneed Rose in the stomach, regained possession of the weapon and Buddy fled the ring. It was announced that the hair match would be a coal miner's glove match also and Gun vowed to retire if he lost. Also, Don Owen announced that any interference would result in the wrestler who would benefit from it getting his head shaved immediately. By the way, despite what was reported elsewhere, a near capacity crowd attended the 12/3 show (though kids got in free which helped).

The Pacific Coast Wrestling Federation owned by local businessman Mel Saraceno and booked by Moondog Morreti began on 12/3 . We have no results at this time, but will have a full feature on the new group's first card in next issue. In fact the report will consist almost entirely of PCWF results as Owen's TV show is preempted on 12/17 and 12/24, and there will be two two hour Pacific Coast shows.

On the big 12/10 Portland show, there was a fast paced but short match between Steve Dahl and Abbudah Dein. Dahl had the Arab in a bad spot when Matt Borne came in behind Steve while adjusting his wrist band and tapped Steve on the back. At his point, Scott Peterson came up behind Borne to save Dahl and the faces finally dropkicked the heels from the ring. A tag bout was signed for 12/17.

Next, Art Barr squared off against Borne and ref Sandy Barr was bumped out. Borne then tossed Art over the top rope. After Sandy recovered, Borne tried to hit Art on the ropes, but the younger Barr ducked and flipped Matt over the top and Sandy DQ'd his son.

Remember C. W. Stiles, the bulky wrestler with the glass eye that popped out and rolled around the ring in Southern last year? Well, he made an non wrestling appearance and challenged Top Gun to a TV title match for 12/17 which Gun accepted. Stiles is going by the name of Killer Carl Stiles here.

Colonel DeBeers faced Mike Golden in a bootcamp match just days before Deebeers was to meet Sgt Slaughter in Chicago in the same type of match. DeBeers grabbed Golden's baseball bat from ringside and rammed it into Mike's stomach. When DeBeers got on the ropes to grab Golden's American flag, Golden shook the top rope causing DeBeers to come down groin first on the top rope. Mike went up and pulled the South African flag down but Col quickly shoved Mike off his perch and he crashed to the floor. DeBeers put his flag back and it was easy for the colonel to grab the American flag. DeBeers made motions of ripping our flag an Art Barr ran in and took it away. DeBeers kneed Barr in the stomach and took both flags back to the dressing room for the win. Art then challenged DeBeers for a chance to get the flag back on the 12/25 Christmas spectacular.

Finally, the Turner folks will attempt to work with other promotions as they are combining with Owen for a 1/10/89 Tuesday spectacular (no TV). In the main event, Flair vs Sting. Also Road Warriors vs Rhodes/Luger; Bigelow vs either Candy or Boone (yech); Ivan and (double yech) JFD will meet the Russian Assassins.

Back on 12/10, Tatsumi Fujinami defended the NW title against the Grappler (they said their match ended in a draw...before the match took place). Anyway, we saw the first three minutes of the match on TV and they were doing chain wrestling as the show signed off. We don't have the results of this match or the hair match as of this writing but should next time. And we'll be back next issue with in depth coverage of the new Pacific Coast Federation.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

11/25 HARTFORD, CT (WWF) - courtesy of Ron Lemieux... Poffo pinned Horowitz...Robin over Sherri...Valentine drew Tito...Akeem beat Jones...Demolition DDQ POP...Volkoff pinned Iron Mike...Hercules beat Virgil...Hennig over Roma...Hogan over Bossman by dQ...NOTES: Attendance 9800...lots of freebies given out in conjunction with a Jeep dealer...fans here thought POP were faces but sat on hands during match as they were confused.

12/2 PROVIDENCE, RI (WWF) - courtesy of John McAdam... Horowitz pinned Iron Mike (D-)...Zhukov over G. Skaalund... (F)...Valentine by COR over Santana (B)...Harley pinned SD (Z)...Savage/Hercules over DiBiase/Virgil (B+)... Harts drew Rougeaus (F)...Pete Doherty over Conquistador (C)...Andre by DQ over Jake (F)...NOTES: Harts draw was a 20 minute match that lasted 18:26...Boris-Skaalund was horrid...Bad News Brown came out and challenged Randy... he was told if he stayed at ringside he'd be fined \$10,000.

12/3 OMAHA (WWF) - courtesy of Bruce Grummert...Sam Houston upset Volkoff...casey beat Lombardi...Roma beat Davis...Rude pinned Hillbilly Jim...Andre by DQ over Jake...Tully/Arn defeated Rockers...Bad News beat Omar Atlas...Dingbat downed HTM...NOTES: Attendance 5384...Busters-Rockers best match on card...a double slingshot on Shawn ended the match...Jake DQ'd for throwing snake in ring.

12/4 DES MOINES, IA (WWF) - courtesy of Doyle Norris... Bad News beat Atlas (D)...Roma over Davis (C)...Volkoff over Houston (C-)...Andre over Jake by DQ (C+)...Busters over Rockers (B+)...Rude over Hillbilly (C-)...Warrior downed HTM (C-)...NOTES: attendance 5000...basically same card as above report.

12/10 CHICAGO (Windy City) - courtesy of Steve Sims... Frank Melson pinned Twin Turbo #1 (C-)...Dave Casper over Tarzan (C)...Awesome Ondi Austin beat Dazzler (A)... Steve Regal defeated Thor (D)...Beach Boys beat Tokyo Bullets (B)...NOTES: Sellout of a grade school gym with 325...Turbo, Casper and Tarzan all were in their first matches tonight...Dazzler is former mud wrestler which made this match a pleasant surprise...best ladies match Steve has ever seen live...Tony Montana threw powder into a Bullet's eyes by mistake to give Beach Boys the win.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Let's get the trivia question out of the way first. Last issue we asked you to give the correct name of the critter that Ricky Steamboat brought into the ring to combat Jake Robert's snake. The correct answer is a Monitor. With Starrcade coming up in the next couple of weeks, our trivia question for this issue is this: Who was the referee who stopped the match between Dusty Rhodes and Ric Flair at Starrcade's Million Dollar Challenge? Answer next time and as always, there is no prize for a correct answer, this is just for fun.

Some depressing news to report next. There has been yet another wrestling related murder in the sport. Medardo "Jim" Leon who wrestled on the east coast for some independents under the names of The Cuban Assassin and Ricky Lawless was shot and killed at his home on November 30. Leon, of Locust Point, MD, answered his door around 11 pm that night while entertaining his girlfriend. Leon attempted to shut the door upon seeing the visitor had a shotgun, but the weapon wielding intruder kicked the door from its hinges and fired twice. Leon was hit in the left hand and chest and was pronounced dead on arrival at nearby Shock Trauma Unit in Baltimore. Police have arrested Ronald Hembrecht on charges of first degree murder and a weapons violation in connection with the case. Hembrecht, also a wrestler who worked under the name of Vladamir Kolloff, had been involved in a feud with Leon and was allegedly upset when Leon messed up his timing and cracked a chair over Hembrecht's head a little too hard. Hembrecht is being held without bail.

This issue is a bit late as you can no doubt tell. It's been a busy couple of weeks. Most of our time was spent putting together the third issue of the uAWF magazine which should arrive either tomorrow or the next day. The forth issue is on the mats right now and should be ready by the first week of January. Steve Sims of Lilse, IL is taking over the editorship of the magazine which should help to bring it back on schedule. If you have contributions to make, send them along. We can really use about anything we can get. If you don't have the Scrapbook within the next five days, let me know so I can check and make sure the UAWF has your correct address.

The NWA doesn't do marketing on the scale of the WWF but they are learning. The trading cards that they have are being advertised in the Sports Coolectors trade

papers, so that's a start.

I've had the opportunity to see Superclash III by now and although I'm not going to take the space right now for my own opinions of it, I can honestly say I haven't seen very many blade jobs as bad as the one Kerry performed on himself. He cut himself over each eye once and then again in the middle of the forehead. I'll get into this more next time but for now let's just say Tommy Rich is going to be very jealous of Kerry's efforts.

Here's a reader request: JOE PINKANS, 99 Brent St, Albany NY, 12205 is looking to buy or trade older programs from 1982 or before from all over as well as autographed photos, VHS independent tapes (especially Blackwell's Southern) and other wrestling related items.

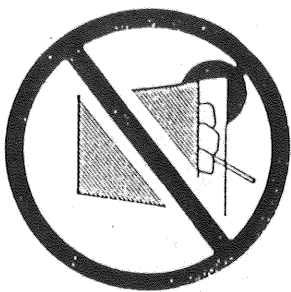
Next issue I plan to run a feature somewhat like Santa's shopping list in this issue only with New Year's resolutions. However if just one person responds with ideas, I'll scrap it. If you feel inclined, send in some ideas. Or, if you like, how about some tabloid rag-predictions for 1989? What ever I get, I'll use.

1988. What a year. Our subscription drive has been officially pronounced dead and I still have a few Forumbucks to give out. This issue we've got right around 238 subscribers which is a long way from the goal I had set of 350 by year's end. Still, it gives us something to shoot for in 1989. Thanks to those who helped in the drive especially Dave Meltzer for his constant plugs and kind words and also to Maurice Forrester who got us in to Factsheet 5, a newsletter about newsletters. That article has helped tremendously. Better not forget Dwight Decker who did one for us in a recent issue of the Torch, a comic book industry trade. And of course, all of you who have helped, thank you.

For anyone who would like to get together in Philadelphia the first weekend in February with a bunch of the guys who attended the Memphis convention, contact Steve Sims at 1-800-456-7771. He's putting together a mini get together while the NWA is in town. This is not the 1989 convention, but again, just a get together for a bunch of good guys.

That's about it from the cornfields. Hope you enjoyed. We'll be back next time with a full report on Starrcade along with all the other late breaking stuff. I'm off work through January 3 so I've got some time to catch up on a LOT! Hopefully that'll also put everything back on schedule. Until then...BYE!

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